

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15: (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A wheelchair lift comprising:
a platform for carrying a passenger;
a lifting mechanism secured at one end to a vehicle and at the other end to the platform adjacent to an inboard end of the platform for moving the platform between a ground level position, a transfer level position and a vertically-stowed position;

a plate pivotally connected to the inboard end of the platform and moveable between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position; ~~and~~

~~a linkage system coupled to the plate for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position, the linkage system cooperating with the lifting mechanism and connected to the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically stowed position.~~

a first linkage cooperating with the lifting mechanism and coupled to the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically stowed position; and

a second linkage coupled to the plate and directly connected to the first linkage for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the lifting mechanism comprises a parallelogram structure.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage system comprises a telescoping member.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 comprising wherein the first linkage comprises a pair of arms of unequal length and the second linkage comprises an actuator link pivotally extending between the longer arm of the pair of arms of the first linkage system and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage system comprises a pair of arms of unequal length.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 20 wherein a longer arm of the pair of arms is a telescoping member.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage system comprises a first arm extending from the lifting mechanism and a second arm extending from the platform.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 22 wherein the second arm is a telescoping member.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The wheelchair lift of claim 23 wherein telescoping movement of the second arm moves the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 25 (currently amended): The wheelchair lift of claim 24 ~~comprising wherein the second linkage comprises~~ an actuator link extending between the second arm of the ~~first linkage assembly~~ and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 26 (currently amended): The wheelchair lift of claim 17 wherein contact between the ~~first linkage system~~ and the parallelogram structure causes the ~~linkage system to move~~ the plate ~~to move~~ between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 27 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein movement of the lifting mechanism relative to the first linkage causes the plate to move between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 28 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the lifting mechanism acts upon the first linkage to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 29 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 16 wherein the first linkage acts upon the second linkage to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 30 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 29 wherein the lifting mechanism causes the first linkage to act upon the second linkage to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 31 (new): A wheelchair lift comprising:
a platform for carrying a passenger;
a lifting mechanism secured at one end to a vehicle and at the other end to the platform adjacent to an inboard end of the platform for moving the platform between a ground level position, a transfer level position and a vertically-stowed position;
a plate pivotally connected to the inboard end of the platform and moveable between a raised barrier position and a lowered bridging position; and
a linkage coupled to the plate for moving the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position, the linkage cooperating with the lifting mechanism and coupled to the platform for moving the platform from the transfer level position to the vertically-stowed position, wherein the linkage comprises a telescoping member.

Claim 32 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 31 wherein the linkage comprises a first arm extending from the lifting mechanism and a second arm extending from the platform.

Claim 33 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 32 wherein the second arm is the telescoping arm.

Claim 34 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 33 wherein the telescoping movement of the second arm moves the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.

Claim 35 (new): The wheelchair lift of claim 34 comprising an actuator link extending between the second arm of the linkage system and the plate, the actuator link operable to move the plate between the raised barrier position and the lowered bridging position.